Payment under Food for Work Programme to Rajasthan

†4559. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that payment of Rs. 23.42 crore under the programme of Food for Work have remained unpaid to the labourers, as a result of deduction in allocation of wheat from 87,322 metric tonnes to 26,197 metric tonnes to Rajasthan Government in the year 2005-06;

(b) the reasons for not releasing this amount so far; and

(c) by when this amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) There has been no such reference from the State Government of Rajasthan to this Ministry. The State was authorized 43661 metric tonnes of foodgrains against the revised allocation of 26197 MTs. Under NFFWP States were to make payment of wages through a mix of foodgrains and cash. Any shortfall in foodgrains in payment of wages was to be made good from cash component.

Low coverage of rural sanitation

4560. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coverage of rural sanitation in the country is very low;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Millennium Development Goal of the United Nations envisages having the number of people not having access to potable water or sanitation by 2015;

(d) if so, whether mere provision of funds is unlikely to solve the problem, unless it is supported by a vigorous information, education, communication campaign;

(e) if so, how far the centrally sponsored total sanitation campaign is helpful to increase the rural sanitation to fulfil the UN goal; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) what steps have been taken by the Union Government to promote rural sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per 1991 census, the total percentage of household with latrine in rural area was about 22% which has increased to about 45%by end of the March 2007.

(c) The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of the United Nations envisage halving by 2015, the number of people not having access to potable water or sanitations, taking 1990 as the base year.

(d) to (f) To accelerate the pace of rural sanitation coverage in India, a centrally sponsored programme, namely Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), was introduced in 1986. Central Rural Sanitation Programme was restructured in 1999 as Total Sanitation Campaign, with focus on demand generation through effective information, education and communication campaign. It is being implemented in rural areas taking district as a unit of implementation. Projects have been approved for 572 rural districts of the country. As a result, total percentage of household with latrine in rural area has increased to about 45% by end of March 2007.

Funds under NREGA

4561. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act since September, 2005, and utilisation thereof, State-wise and District-wise;

(b) the details of categories of works and number of job cards provided under the Act in various States, State-wise and District-wise since September, 2005;

(c) when cases of irregularities in implementation of these schemes, and the Act have come to the notice of Government; and

(d) if so, the State-wise and District-wise details thereof; indicating the action taken against the erring officers remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken?